

Historical - 6

OFFICE LETTER

To	Bruce Crawford, State Director	Office	Date	October 31, 1960
From	Juanita J. Dilley	Office	Referring to	
Subject	Inclosed report		File	

Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

The deed to Mount Zion church had me stumped for a long time. I couldn't understand why he made reference to a house on the lot and then said upon which they shall erect a building for worship. I did not think there had ever been any other building on the lot, and I ask every one I met that I thought might know, but most of them could give me reasons for it. At last I went to see Mrs. Alice Sharp at Front and ask her. She is one of the oldest living persons that once lived near the church, and she told me that the old building was there but was not being used as a place of worship at that time and that the people decided to repair it and make it into a place of worship again. She believes, from what she has heard older people say, that the building had been there for many years before 1936 when the deed was given.

I lived for six years in this community and went to church at Mt. Zion, and my husband's people have been there since around 1800. We were living there in 1935 when they accused the preacher for unfaithfulness to his family, and believe me there was some upheaval. The preacher before him was believed to have been the same kind of a man and they decided two of them together was just too much

FOUNTAIN COUNTY

Jessie Miller
 Chapter 6 Religion
 October 31, 1960

Part of the
 Deed to Mount Zion Church

This indenture made the sixth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty six between Charles Grimes and Martha his wife of the county of Fountaine and state of West Virginia of the one part and James Wankers, William Moore, John Henness, James Grimes, John Sharp, Henry Arbogast and John Waugh, trustees in trust for the use and purposes herein after mentioned, all of the county of Fountaine and state aforesaid, of the other part, witnesseth that the said Charles Grimes and Martha his wife for and in the consideration of \$2.00 the receipt therefore acknowledged, hath given, granted, sold, bargained, released, confirmed and conveyed unto said -----trustees, etc. etc.

A certain lot or parcel of land situated, lying and being in the said county of Fountaine, W. Va. on the east waters of Thorny Creek containing two acres and fifty one poles and bounded as follows-----including a spring, it being a part of a survey of 510 acres granted to Felix Grimes by patent and devised to said Charles Grimes in his will. Together with all and singular the houses, woods, waters, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise pertaining to, to have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described lot or parcel of land situated as aforesaid together with all and singular the houses, woods, waters,

and privileges unto them the said James Whittless, etc. --- trustees and their successors in office forever in trust that they shall erect, build or cause to be erected or built a house, a place of worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopal church in the United States of America according to the rules and discipline which from time to time be agreed upon and adopted by the ministers, preachers of the said church at their general conference in the United States of America, and in farther trust and confidence that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such ministers and preachers belonging to said church or shall from time to time be duly authorized, etc. -----to preach and expound Gods holy word therein, and in farther trust and confidence that as often as any one or more of the trustees heretofore mentioned, shall die or cease to be a member of the said church according to said rules and discipline as aforesaid then and in that case it shall be the duty of the stationed minister or preacher authorized as aforesaid who shall have the members of said church in charge to call a meeting of the remaining trustees as soon as convenient, and when met the said minister shall proceed to nominate one or more of thair persons to fill the place of office vacated, provided the person nominated shall have been one year a member of the said church and be at least 21 years of age, and the said trustees as assembled shall proceed to elect and by a majority of votes to appoint the person or persons so nominated to fill the vacancy in order to keep the number up to nine trustees forever, and in case of any equal number of votes for or against the nomination, the minister shall have the casting vote, etc. etc.

Parsonages of the Methodist Protestant Church

In Deed Book number 18 page 66 is recorded a deed dated February 12, 1887 in which Henry Buzzard deeded to Wm. Overholt, Wellington W. Hoggatt, David Cochran, Charles Barr, and W. F. Ferry trustees of the Methodist Protestant Parsonage, a certain tract of land situated two and one half miles from Huntersville on the Cummings Creek Road, to be used exclusively for a parsonage for the Methodist Protestant Church.

A vendor's lien was held until a balance of \$16.00 should be paid. The sale price had been \$74.00

then in *July 1894* in deed book number 20 page 218 George Buzzard, Sarah J. Filer, Susan M. Auldridge and W. M. Auldridge heirs of Henry Buzzard, deceased, parties of the first part to Wm. Overholt, David Cochran, Charles Barr, W. F. Ferry, and Wellington Hoggatt, trustees of the Methodist Protestant Parsonage on Cummings Creek for the sum of \$16.00 do hereby grant and release to the said parties of the second part all our claims upon the said parsonage property.

By these deeds will be seen that the parsonage for the Huntersville Circuit was located on Cummings Creek.

PARSONAGE --- MARLINGTON CIRCUIT

The parsonage of the Marlinton Circuit was located near the Glasgow Church.

In a deed dated March 20, 1918, Ellis Z. Friel party of the first part to John Ferry, M. J. Sharp, S. A. Clarkston, William F. Irvine and S. P. Johnson, trustees of the Methodist Protestant Parsonage of the Marlinton Circuit for the consideration of \$275.00 cash in hand, a certain tract of land containing two acres with all of its appurtenances, in trust for the use and

was Rev. John McGue. Mr. McGue was licensed to preach by conference at a presbytery meeting in Timber Ridge Church, Rockbridge Co.

benefit of the ministers and preachers and members of the Marlinton Circuit of the West Virginia Conference, Putthontee County composed of the following churches: Fairview, a church building, located near Surter, Bethel a church building located near Buckeye, Seebert- a church building in the town of Seebert, Drop Mountain a church building on Drop Mountain near Louisa.

Said property is conveyed to the trustees and their successors for a parsonage property or residence of preachers of the Marlinton charge.

I don't know why the parsonage was located in such an out of the way place as Clavson unless it was because of the train service at that time. Buckeye, Seebert and Drop Mountain could be reached by train and Fairview was in walking distance. There was Sunday train service on the Greenbrier Division ~~xxxx~~ in 1915 and I imagine this had something to do with locating the parsonage at Clavson. It certainly would be one of the most unhandy locations for a parsonage at the present time. I had to get a boy to beat me across the river and then walk a mile down the railroad when I went down there to get the picture of the church. This parsonage was not used very many years for after the two circuits were united into the Foothootee Circuit the preachers resided at Huntersville. Now since the Methodist Churches are united he resides in the parsonage at Minnehaha Springs.

The deed for the lot upon which the Seebert Methodist Protestant church was built was sold to Wellington T. Roggett, Joseph Bowers, Isaac B. Smith, Wallace W. Underwood and Howard Underwood, trustees, for the sum of \$300. by J. B. and Hara E. Gladwell. It is dated *June 5, 1905*

Deed book 39 page 41b

No church however was built by the Methodists and the Presbyterians desiring to have a place of worship entered into an agreement with the Methodists to build a church together. This was in 1906. The deed of agreement was between H. J. McNeal, and G. W. Stulting, trustees of the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and W. T. Roggett, J. B. Pyles, I. B. Smith and Wallace Underwood trustees of the Methodist Protestant church owners of a certain tract of land designated as lot 30 block 7 in Seebert. It is mutually agreed between said trustees that the two denominations unit and build a church building on said lot to be used by each of said denominations for the worship of God. It shall not cost more than \$1700., each shall contribute and pay equally. In case they shall not agree upon use of the church, the Presbyterians shall use it on the first and third Sundays and the Methodists on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. If either denomination decided to sell its interest in the church it was to give the other a chance to buy upon twelve months notice. In case any controversy arose over the use of the church, a committee composed of one Presbyterian, one Methodist and the third to be chosen by the first two appointed, was to be chosen and their decision was to be final.

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